

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Claims 1-8 are canceled

9. (New) A method of making a cement board having alkaline properties, comprising:

(a) forming a mesh first layer from mesh fibers, which mesh fibers comprise a thermoplastic material having a composition that is both, water resistant and alkali resistant, and which mesh fibers further comprise glass core strand material protectively coated with the thermoplastic material prior to forming the mesh first layer;

(b) uniting the mesh first layer with a second layer having randomly oriented fibers, which randomly oriented fibers comprise, a thermoplastic material having a composition that is both, water resistant and alkali resistant;

(c) applying a wetting agent on the water resistant and alkali resistant, mesh fibers and the water resistant and alkali resistant, randomly oriented fibers, respectively;

(d) wetting the mesh fibers and the randomly oriented fibers with an alkali cementitious matrix; and

(e) forming the cement board by hardening the alkali cementitious matrix while the mesh fibers and the randomly oriented fibers are imbedded therein, and wherein the mesh fibers and the randomly oriented fibers are protected from premature alkali damage.

10. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

applying the wetting agent on the mesh fibers, prior to the step of forming the mesh first layer having the mesh fibers.

11. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

applying the wetting agent on the randomly oriented fibers, prior to the step of uniting the mesh first layer with the second layer having the randomly oriented fibers.

12. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

prior to the step of uniting the mesh first layer with the second layer, forming the second layer by joining the randomly oriented fibers with a chemical binder, wherein the chemical binder comprises the wetting agent.

13. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

uniting the mesh first layer with the second layer, prior to applying the wetting agent on the mesh fibers and the randomly oriented fibers.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

simultaneously applying the wetting agent on the mesh first layer, and on the second layer.

15. (New) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

conveying the united mesh first layer and second layer in a continuous production apparatus, while applying the wetting agent on the mesh fibers, and while applying the wetting agent on the randomly oriented fibers, and while wetting the mesh fibers and the randomly oriented fibers with the alkali cementitious matrix, and while hardening the alkali cementitious matrix.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

simultaneously applying the wetting agent on the mesh fibers and the randomly oriented fibers.